

Overview of Japan's Feudal Period

Notes 2.6

World History

Jan.____, 2018

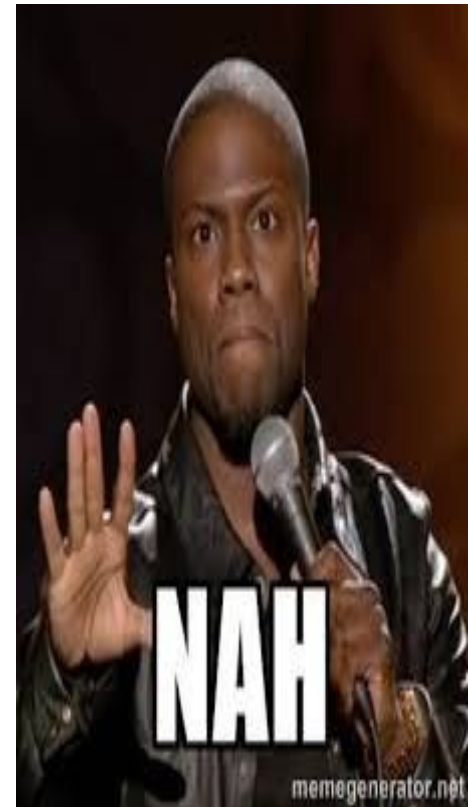




Japan is an archipelago in Asia.

The Emperor Loses Power

- By the 1100s, the emperor of Japan's power was greatly weakened by civil war.
- Noble families refused to pay taxes to the emperor. They grew rich and bought much land.
- Eventually, one noble family grew more powerful than any other.





Noble families did not want to obey the emperor. They wanted power.

You remember European feudalism?



Feudalism in Japan and Europe

Japan



Europe

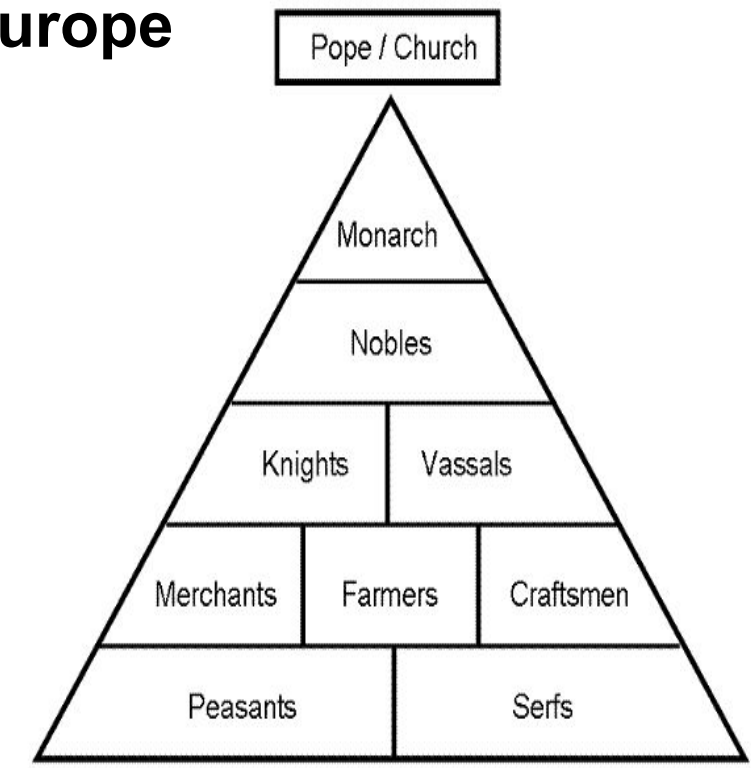


Feudalism

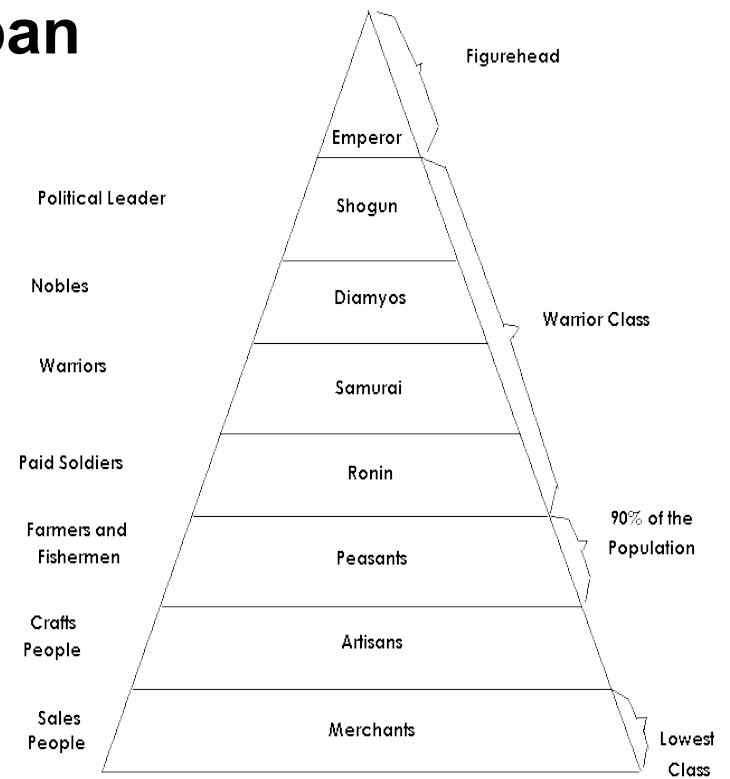
- A system of feudalism, similar to that found in European feudalism, arose in Japan.
- In a feudal society, land is exchanged for military service.
- Japanese lords gave away some of their land to other people in exchange for loyalty and military service.

Feudalism

Europe



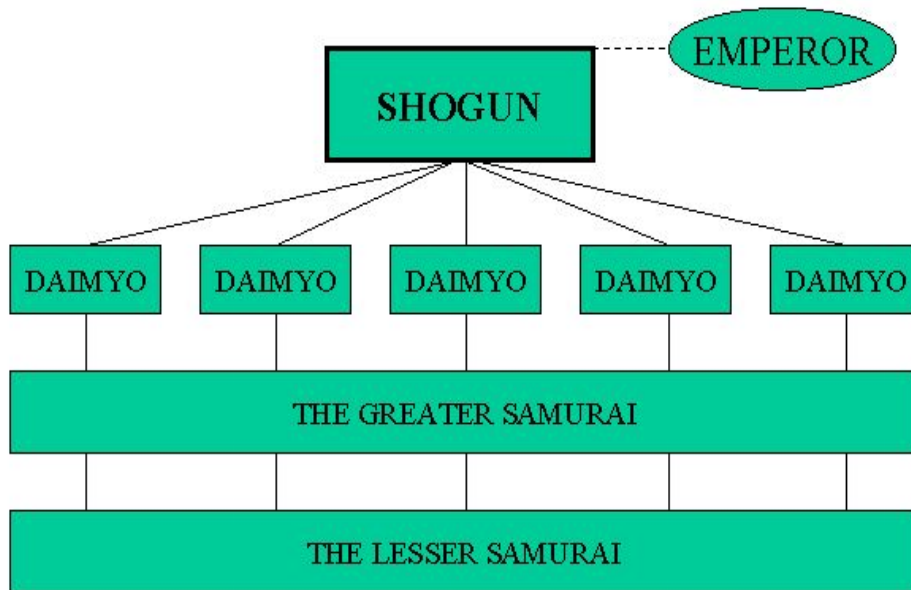
Japan



The Shogun

- The leader of Japan's most powerful family forced the emperor to appoint him shogun.
- The word "Shogun" means "great general".
- For the next 700 years, powerful shoguns governed Japan.

GOVERNMENT DURING THE TOKUGAWA PERIOD



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- A. Although the emperor was honored as the head of the Japanese government the actual power was held by the Shogun. The Shogun usually came from a powerful family and the position was hereditary.
- B. The Shogun was in charge of the Japanese courts, the nation's finances, and served as the leader of the Japanese military.
- C. The daimyo are actually very powerful and wealthy samurai. The daimyo sometimes challenge the shogun's power.

The Shogun said he ruled in the emperor's name. In fact, the shogun was a military dictator who controlled Japan.

The Daimyo

- The Daimyo were Japanese lords or nobles.
- The Daimyo had to obey the Shogun and provide military service.
- The Daimyo controlled large estates. They were great landowners.



Daimyo were great landowners of feudal Japan. They were the highest nobles next to the Shogun.

The Samurai

- To provide military protection for their lands, Japanese daimyo recruited samurai.
- Samurai were Japanese warriors.
- Samurai had to provide military service and obey the Daimyo and Shogun.



Samurai were Japanese warriors.
They had to be loyal, brave, and
fearless.

Code of Bushido

- Samurai warriors had to follow the Code of Bushido.
- The Code of Bushido was similar to European chivalry.
- A samurai had to be loyal to his daimyo and show no emotion.



If a samurai lost his honor, he had to commit ritual suicide or seppuku.

